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SECURITY INFORMATION
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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

TOPIC Military Information from the Weisswasser Training Area

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EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

29 August 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 4 August 1952, all quarters of Camp Nochten in the Weisswasser (O 52/A 74) training area were occupied to capacity. The earth bunkers on the southern border of AT artillery range were also occupied. About 100 soldiers and a field kitchen were located there. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and artillery insignia and, some, with signal and motor transport insignia. Thirty new, [] trucks drove from the Weisswasser railroad station toward Nochten at 5 p.m. on 26 July, and 50 new, [] trucks were seen at 11:45 p.m. on 27 July. At 3:15 p.m. on 28 July, four T-34 tanks drove from the Weisswasser railroad station toward Nochten and, at 4 p.m., several officers and about 150 men with rifles, rucksacks and blankets and wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched from the direction of Nochten to the Weisswasser railroad station. A column which came from the direction of Nochten and proceeded in the direction of Spremberg at 10:45 a.m. on 29 July 1952, consisted of about 45 trucks, []

- [] 10 sidecar motorcycles and 3 two-axle armored scout cars. At 11:30 a.m. on 31 July, several officers and about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying submachine guns, spades, rucksacks and blankets marched from the Weisswasser railroad station toward Nochten. At 4:30 p.m., a shipment of 10 AA guns, 3 jeeps mounting AA machine guns and about 12 trucks left the Weisswasser railroad station toward Spremberg. The dispatching station of the shipment could not be determined. Troops started unloading a train at the Weisswasser railroad station at 5:30 p.m. Three jeeps each mounting an AA machine gun and occupied by 1 driver and 7 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets [] left the railroad station toward Muskau. About 45 trucks including 35 towing artillery pieces including AA guns, 2 workshop trucks, 1 field kitchen and 350 to 400 troops left the railroad station toward Nochten, at 10:30 p.m. The unloading process lasted until 2 a.m. At 11:45 a.m. on 1 August, eight trucks [] arrived at the Weisswasser railroad station from the direction of Nochten. At 12:45 p.m., truck [] towing an AT gun, truck [] loaded with straw mattresses and trucks [] each with 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets drove from the railroad station toward Nochten. Five T-34 tanks were engaged in firing practice with live ammunition on a clearing northeast of Nelkenberg between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 29 July. One tank at a time approached a wooden structure from a distance of about 500 meters, fired a single shot about 100 meters from the target

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and returned to its initial point. About 12 officers witnessed the practice which lasted until about nightfall. Between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., 4 T-34 and 3 JS-3 tanks practiced combat firing in the area northeast of Melkenberg. The seven tanks advanced in a deployed formation for about 700 meters, stopped for a short period to fire at a dummy tank and proceeded. Two T-34 tanks practiced driving in the terrain. Between 2 and 6 p.m., on 4 August, four T-34 tanks practiced firing at a wooden tower northeast of Melkenberg. The tanks fired individually from a stationary position. After about six shots, the crews were relieved.

2. At about 7 a.m. on 22 July, from 80 to 100 soldiers practiced combat firing at targets on the infantry range. About 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia received combat training with carbines and gas masks on the same firing range at about 2 p.m. on 3 August. At about 1 p.m. on 26 July, 42 new trucks were unloaded at the Weisswasser railroad station. The vehicles moved toward Hochtzen. On 26 and 29 July, two railroad tank cars each were emptied into tank trucks. * At about 2 p.m. on 2 August, a Soviet train arrived at the Weisswasser railroad station. No details could be obtained. At about 12 p.m., about 30 trucks with troops and luggage and including 10 towing light AA guns left the station in the direction of Hochtzen. ** On 2 August at about 4 p.m., 17 soldiers with bandages on arms, heads or feet were loaded into a train headed toward Cottbus.

Comment. The AAA shipment leaving Weisswasser at 4:30 p.m. on 31 July and the shipment arriving at Weisswasser at about 5:30 p.m. on the same day are probably identical with shipments to and from Justertog respectively which were reported the Berlin and Cottbus regional railroad headquarters. It is known that the light AAA units of the Third Gds Mecz Army conducted firing practices at Justertog.

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